

1. A method of receiving, storing, and forwarding a print job over a network, comprising:
 - forwarding said print job to a spooling server;
 - receiving said print job at said spooling server;
 - storing said print job at said spooling server;
 - receiving a polling request for said print job at said spooling server from a printer polling device; and
 - forwarding said requested print job from the spooling server to the printer polling device.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the print job is printed at a printer coupled to said printer polling device.
3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein said printer is located at a location remote from said spooling server.
4. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the print job is forwarded to the spooling server without a pre-determined print destination.
5. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the printer polling device periodically polls the spooling server to

6. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the network comprises:

7. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

said spooling server is located outside said gateway
firewall.

the print job is forwarded to the spooling server as web-style traffic and received at the printer polling device as web-style traffic.

the print job is forwarded to the spooling server such that reconfiguration of the gateway firewall is not required.

10. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the printer polling device is located at and in communication with a second local area network; and

11. A method in accordance/with claim 10, wherein:

the printer polling device communicates with the spooling server via a second gateway firewall which controls access to the second local area network.

the spooling server is capable of storing multiple print jobs in at least one spooling queue.

providing for encryption of the print job at a print job source; and

providing for decryption of the print job at the printer polling device.

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storing each print job at the spooling server according to a personal identification number (PIN).

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22. A method in accordance with claim 19, wherein:

the PIN is provided to the spooling server via one of a user interface associated with the printer polling device, a telephone, a computer, an Internet appliance, a facsimile machine, a scanner, a personal digital assistant device, or a dedicated terminal;

the list of available print jobs is displayed on one of a user interface associated with the printer polling device, a telephone, a computer, an Internet appliance, a facsimile machine, a scanner, a personal digital assistant device, or a dedicated terminal; and

selection of an available print job is made via a user interface associated with the printer polling device, a

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providing for communication of the desired print location to the spooling server; and

24. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

providing for designation of a substantially specific time for printing a print job; and

making said print job available for printing from the spooling server only at the designated substantially specific time.

25. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

26. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

27. A method in accordance with claim 26, wherein:

28. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

29. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the printer polling device communicates printer status to the spooling server.

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32. A method in accordance with claim 31, further comprising:

33. A method in accordance with claim 29, further comprising:

providing for automatic on-line ordering of printer supplies as required by printer status.

34. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the print job comprises at least one of a document, a poster, an image, a coupon, a ticket, a certificate, a check, a list, a schedule, a periodical, a unit of currency, a negotiable instrument, postage, a bill of lading, a lottery or gaming ticket, a token, food stamps, a license, a permit, a pass,

35. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

uploading the document from the client device to the spooling server.

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communicating the directory to the printer polling
device;
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presenting the directory at the printer polling device; and

providing for selection of a print job from the directory.

37. A method in accordance with claim 36, wherein presenting the directory comprises one of a visual

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38. A method in accordance with claim 35, wherein the client device periodically polls the spooling server.

40. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising providing a communication device for providing the status of the print job stored on the spooling server.

41. A method in accordance with claim 40, wherein the status of the print job comprises at least one of filename, file size, author, creation date, print job lifetime, image, title, contents, personal identification number, recipient, job number, or reference number.

42. A method in accordance with claim 40, wherein the communication device comprises one of a telephone, a computer, an Internet appliance, a personal digital assistant device, or a dedicated terminal.

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43. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the print job source is one of a computer, a personal digital assistant device, an Internet appliance, a facsimile machine, a scanner, a telephone, or a dedicated terminal.

44. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said printer polling device is capable of polling multiple spooling servers.

45. A method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:
providing for the communication between said spooling server and other servers; and
receiving a print job from at least one of the other servers at the spooling server.

46. A spooling server for receiving, storing, and forwarding a print job over a network, comprising:
memory for storing said print job at said spooling server;
a receiver for receiving said print job at said spooling server, said receiver adapted to receive a polling request for said print job at said spooling server from a printer polling device; and
a transmitter for forwarding said requested print job from the spooling server to the printer polling device.

47. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the print job is printed at a printer coupled to said printer polling device.

48. A spooling server in accordance with claim 47, wherein said printer is located at a location remote from said spooling server.

49. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the print job is forwarded to the spooling server without a pre-determined print destination.

50. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the printer polling device periodically polls the spooling server to identify print jobs associated with the printer polling device.

51. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the network comprises:

at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, a global network, and the Internet.

52. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein:

said printer polling device is located within a gateway firewall; and

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56. A spooling server in accordance with claim 55, wherein:
the print job source communicates with the spooling
server via a first gateway firewall which controls access
to the first local area network; and

the printer polling device communicates with the spooling server via a second gateway firewall which controls access to the second local area network.

57. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the memory comprises at least one spooling queue for storing multiple print jobs.

58. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein:
the print job is encrypted at a print job source; and
the print job is decrypted at the printer polling device.

59. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the print job comprises a document provided by a content provider.

60. A spooling server in accordance with claim 59, wherein said content provider is one of a newspaper, a magazine, a periodical, a document provider, a graphic arts provider, a notification service, an Internet content provider, a merchant, a financial institution, a government agency, or a shipping company.

67. A spooling server in accordance with claim 64, wherein:

the print job is printed at the desired print location when the printer polling device at the desired print location polls the spooling server and identifies the print job.

said print job is made available for printing from the spooling server only at the designated substantially specific time.

70. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein:
a lifetime of the print job is designated, wherein
said print job will be stored only for the designated
lifetime.

71. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein:
a number of printings of said print job is designated,
wherein said print job can only be printed the designated
number of times.

72. A spooling server in accordance with claim 71, wherein:
the print job is one of a negotiable instrument, a stamp, a coupon, a certificate, a check, a unit of currency, a token, or a receipt.

73. A system in accordance with claim 46, wherein:
one or more recipients of said print job are
designated, wherein the print job can only be printed by
the designated one or more recipients.

78. A spooling server in accordance with claim 74, wherein:
automatic on-line ordering of printer supplies as
required by printer status is provided.

the directory is presented at the printer polling device; and

for selection of a print job from the directory is provided for.

82. A spooling server in accordance with claim 81, wherein the directory is presented via one of a visual presentation or an audio presentation.

83. A spooling server in accordance with claim 80, wherein the client device periodically polls the spooling server.

84. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein communications with the spooling server are enabled via at least one of a telephone, a personal digital assistant device, a computer, an Internet appliance, a web browser, or a dedicated terminal.

85. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein a communication device for providing the status of the print job stored on the spooling server is provided.

86. A spooling server in accordance with claim 85, wherein the status of the print job comprises at least one of filename, file size, author, creation date, print job lifetime, image, title, contents, personal identification number, recipient, job number, or reference number.

87. A spooling server in accordance with claim 85, wherein the communication device comprises one of a telephone, a computer, an Internet appliance, a personal digital assistant device, or a dedicated terminal.

88. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein the print job source is one of a computer, a personal digital assistant device, an Internet appliance, a facsimile machine, a scanner, a telephone, or a dedicated terminal.

89. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein said printer polling device is capable of polling multiple spooling servers.

90. A spooling server in accordance with claim 46, wherein:
said spooling server is capable of communicating with other servers; and
said spooling server is capable of receiving a print job from at least one of the other servers.

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